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HISTORICAL NOTES.

THE GREAT SEAL OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—The Editor of this magazine is so often called upon to refute a myth to the effect that the great seal of the Confederate States is in South Carolina that he hopes the following letter on file in the office of the Historical Commission in Columbia, will come to the attention of all investigators who may be interested in the subject:

Washington, D. C., December 22d, 1888.

My Dear Quitman:

I congratulate you upon your election to your high office, and I am sure that you will fill it with honor and credit. As a mark of my appreciation for your re-installment, I desire to present the office through its present incumbent with the fac-simile of the great seal of the Confederate States.

The great seal which was finally adopted by the Confederate States of America, was received from England, where it was made, not very long before the termination of our tremendous struggle for a separate and independent Government. It was designed by Honorable Thomas J. Semmes, then a Confederate States Senator from Louisiana, and the equestrian statue is copied from that of Washington in the State House grounds at Richmond.

At the time of the evacuation of Richmond when our army was trudging through the mud and fighting its way to Appomattox, the seal was overlooked in the hurry of packing and one who found it gave it to Col. John T. Pickett, late of this City, a true and devoted Confederate, and since the war he sent to England and had these copies made and gave me three of them.

The great seal which was used prior to the receipt of this one was a very simple affair, and there is a legend concerning it to the effect that when the train was crossing the Savannah at Lowndesville, rumor spread that hostile calvary were near by on the Georgia side, and the party who had charge of the seal declared his purpose that it should never fall into inimical hands, and walking to the end of the ferry dropped it over as near the centre of the River as his eye could measure.

This representation of the seal is a memento of a great and heroic struggle of brave men and brave women for the success of a cause then freighted with all their hope and dearest to their hearts. No soldier who acted well his part in the work which protracted the unequal contest so long, has cause to blush for the result. No man possessed of power of discrimination and sound judgment of the motives which impel the action of men will question the devotion of an American citizen to his re-united country because of his loyalty to the duty before him during that terrible period. However men may differ as to the policy and principles upon which our country is or should be governed, those who passed through that ordeal of danger

and privation, who fought and lost, will cherish with pride the memory of the heroic endurance and manhood with which the struggle was upheld and maintained.

With best wishes for your success in all the undertakings of life,

I am,

Yours truly,

W^m. E. Earle

To Hon. Quitman Marshal,
Secretary of State,
South Carolina.

COPYRIGHTS AND PATENTS GRANTED BY SOUTH CAROLINA.—

In the office of the Secretary of State at Columbia there is a volume entitled "Georgia Grants" on the first page of which is this inscription:

Register Book

of the Titles of Books to be published in the State of South Carolina, kept in Pursuance of An Act of the Legislature of the said State passed the 26th day of March 1784. Entitled An Act for the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences.

On the three succeeding pages the following copyrights and patents were recorded, after which such recording was discontinued and the remainder of the volume was used to record the plats and grants of such lands lying on the north side of the Toogaloo as had been granted to settlers by Georgia authorities under the impression that the territory lying between the Toogaloo and Keowee rivers belonged to Georgia:¹

Secretary's Office Charleston April 20th: 1785—

In Conformity to An Act of the Legislature of this State passed the 26th March 1784 Entitled "an Act for the encouragement of arts and sciences" The Honorable David Ramsey Esquire Registers a Work Called the History of the Revolution in South Carolina from a British Province to an Independent state between the years 1774 and 1783.—

In Conformity to the above Specified Act, Henry Os-
April 21st:—borne Registers an original Work Entitled "An English Grammar Adapted to the Capacities of Children".

June 30th: In Conformity to the above Specified Act Noah Webster Registers an Original Work Entitled "An Institute of the English Language in three parts."—

On the fifth day of February 1787 Robert Squibb Registers a Work called "The Gardener's Calendar for South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina, Containing an account of Work necessary to be done

¹By the conventional agreement entered into between the two States in 1788 the Toogaloo River was made the boundary line and these lands, which lay on the north side of the Toogaloo and which had been granted out by Georgia authorities, were subsequently confirmed to their holders by the South Carolina authorities and copies made of the plats thereof recorded in Georgia. These are the copies.

in the kitchen and Fruit Gardens every Month in the year, with Instructions for performing the same, also particular directions relative to Soil and Situation adapted to the different kinds of plants and Trees Most proper for Cultivation in these States, By Robert Squibb Nursery and Seedsman of Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston printed by Samuel Wright and C^o: for R. Squibb.—1787.—

Nicolas Pike of Newberry Port in the State of Massachusetts on the fourteenth day of February 1787 Registers a Work intituled "A New and Complete System of arithmetic Composed for the Use of the Citizens of the United States by Nicolas Pike A. M.

On this Eleventh day of October 1788 The Honorable John Fauchercand Grimke Esq^r. Registers an original Work entitled "The South Carolina Justice of Peace containing all the Duties Powers and Authorities of that Office as regulated by the Laws now of force in this State and adapted both to the Parish and County Magistrates, to which is adapted a great variety of Warrants, Indictments and other precedents, interspersed under their several Heads, and a summary of several of the Determinations which have been had in the Courts of this State upon the Subjects herein treated of."—And of which a Certificate is this day given to him—

On the thirteenth day of March 1789 Hugh Templeton has deposited in the Secretary's Office, Two plans, one said to be "a Compleat Draft of a Carding Machine that will Card Eighty pounds of Cotton per Day"—the other "a Compleat Draft of a Spinning Machine with eighty four Spindles that will spin with one man's attendance ten Pounds of good Cotton yarn per Day"—

On the first day of April 1789 John Curry of the City of Charleston has deposited in the Secretary's office a Model of a Machine for picking or Ginning Cotton,—

An account of the Construction and Principles of Briggs and Longstreet's Steam Engine; for the use of which an exclusive Right was granted to the Inventors for fourteen years by an Ordinance of the Legislature dated at Charleston the day of February 1788.—

This Engine consists of a Boiler, Two Cylinders and a Condenser constructed in the following manner Viz— The Boiler consists of two metallic Vessels globular, or nearly so, placed one within the other so as to leave a small interstice between, in which Interstice the boiling Water is contained. The inner Vessel contains the fuel, the Flame of which passes through a spiral Flue winding round the outside of the outer Vessel from the Bottom to the Top—the Steam is conveyed by a Pipe from the Boiler into an Interstice between—

The Two Cylinders which are placed horizontally one within the other, from whence it is admitted alternately *into* each end of the Inner Cylinder in which it impels a Piston to vibrate both ways with equal

force—It is also admitted alternately to pass from each end of the inner cylinder—(all the Communications to and from which, are opened and shut by a single cock) by means of Pipes into The Condenser, which is a metallic Vessel having a large surface in Contact with Cold water, The condensed steam or warm water is drawn out of it by a Pump—

Recorded April 1st: 1789—

J. Briggs }
W^m Longstreet }